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SRI S. P. SIVASUBRAMANYA NADAR : Sir, are the Government aware that on account of the provisions of the Act, money-lenders are shifting their place of business from the municipal area to the adjoining hamlets?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Yes, Sir. People resort to all sorts of ways to contravene or get over the provisions.

Labour Welfare Elementary Schools

* 149 *Q.*—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) the authority under the present rules in force empowered to sanction additional teachers' posts in the case of Labour Welfare Elementary Schools;

(*b*) whether there is any proposal for the sanction of additional posts in schools in Arkonam taluk; and

(*c*) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN (on behalf of the Hon. the Minister for Works) : (*a*) The Collectors in the case of the districts and the Director of Harijan Welfare in the case of City are empowered to sanction additional posts in Harijan Welfare Schools temporarily subject to the conditions—

that the total expenditure on account of the temporory posts sanctioned during any year does not exceed the appropriation in the budget estimates for that year, and

that the number of teachers to be employed in the schools and the rates of pay and special pay admissible to such teachers are regulated by rule 71 of the Madras Educational Rules and such orders as may from time to time be issued by the Government in this behalf.

(*b*) & (*c*) There is no separate proposal for the sanction of additional posts of teachers in the schools in Arkonam taluk only, apart from the proposal to sanction additional posts wherever required for the Harijan Welfare Schools in North Arcot district as a whole, including an additional staff of three Secondary Grade and seven Higher Grade teachers for Arkonam taluk. The Collector has been informed that he can sanction these posts within the powers delegated to him in this regard and may come up to Government for sanction of additional posts if the conditions mentioned in the said Government Order are not satisfied.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Sir, as there is a lot of delay in view of the fact that only the District Collectors can sanction posts, would not the Government think of an arrangement by which the Labour Welfare Officer, who inspects the schools and finds additional posts necessary, is empowered to sanction these posts?

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THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, the Government have formed the view that the control by the Collector of the district would be better, and, therefore, they have delegated the power to the Collectors. I do not know how the hon. Member feels that delegation of the authority to the Welfare Officer would improve the situation.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Sir, in view of the fact that though the need is felt by the Welfare Officer, it takes some months to get sanction and that pupils have to go without additional teachers in schools, cannot the Government think of exploring a way for sanctioning the posts and authorising the officer in charge of the welfare schools to sanction these posts?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The Collector is the person in the headquarters, and it would be very easy for the Welfare Officer to meet him and get his requirements sanctioned.

Suicide in the hospital at Sivaganga

* 150 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM (on behalf of Sri V. V. Ramaswami) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any occurrence of suicide in the hospital at Sivaganga has been brought to the notice of the Government;

(*b*) if so, the circumstances under which it happened; and

(*c*) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to prevent such occurrences in future?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (*a*) & (*b*) A patient admitted into the hospital for treatment for pleural effusion of the right side with congestion failure and suspected tuberculosis committed suicide, since he could not bear his sufferings.

(*c*) All the members of the staff of the hospital have been instructed to be vigilant to prevent such occurrences in future.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Sir, has there been any such occurrence at all anywhere else in the State hitherto, I mean during the last two or three years, or is this a unique instance?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Rather a rambling question, Sir. (Laughter.) I do not know.

Primary Health Centres

* 151 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Primary Health Centres opened in each district and the number of centres in which the post of Medical Officer is vacant as on 1st November 1958; and